

Kentucky Intergovernmental Review Process

Division for Air Quality – Asbestos Comments

The project to which this comment is attached involves construction, renovation, demolition, or some other activity, which might result in the discovery and/or disturbance of asbestos-containing materials. The Kentucky Division for Air Quality conditionally approves the proposed project, contingent upon conformance with regulatory requirements for asbestos. The information listed below provides guidelines on Kentucky's asbestos regulations:

Asbestos includes the asbestiform varieties of serpentinite (chrysotile), riebeckite (crocidolite), cummingtonite-grunerite, anthophyllite, and actinolite-tremolite.

Demolition means the wrecking or taking out of any load-supporting structural member of a facility together with any related handling operations.

Renovation means altering in any way one or more facility components. Operations in which load-supporting structural members are wrecked or taken out are excluded.

The coordinators of this project should be aware of the following facts and requirements:

- Breathing asbestos fibers can cause lung cancer and other respiratory diseases.
- Without proper precautions, renovations, demolitions, and even routine maintenance can release microscopic asbestos fibers into the air. Undisturbed asbestos materials, on the other hand, can be safely maintained if they are kept in good condition.
- Asbestos may be found in pipe and boiler insulation, flooring, roofing, wall and ceiling surfacing, ceiling tiles, exterior siding shingles, and even duct tape. More than 3,000 different products containing asbestos were used and are present in an estimated 733,000 public and commercial buildings and older residences nationwide.
- Before renovating or demolishing a structure, have it checked for asbestos by a qualified professional. Any asbestos that will be affected by the activity must be removed by a certified contractor before renovation or demolition begins.
- Written notification to the Division for Air Quality must precede asbestos removal and demolition of a structure in most cases. The purpose of these notifications is to allow Division inspectors an opportunity to check the site and assess the presence of asbestos.
- Removed asbestos wastes must be properly packaged, labeled and disposed at an approved landfill.
- The Division of Occupational Safety and Health Compliance, the Division of Waste Management, and the Transportation Cabinet also regulate handling, transportation, and disposal of asbestos. If a structure is owned by a federal or local agency, there may be additional procedural requirements for handling asbestos.
- The only outright exemptions from the Division's asbestos regulations are for homeowners who renovate or demolish their homes for residential purposes.

The requirements for asbestos may found in the following regulations:

- 401 KAR 58:025 Emission standards for asbestos
- 401 KAR 58:005 Accreditation of persons conducting asbestos work at schools
- 401 KAR 58:010 School management plan requirements; and
- 401 KAR 58:040 Requirements for asbestos abatement entities.

Questions may be directed to the Division for Air Quality, Special Programs Branch, at 502-573-3382.